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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Geographic Intelligence Memorandum on "Malaysia" --
CIA/RR GM 62-2

REFERENCE: [REDACTED]

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1. Your comments on subject report, which was produced on short deadline at ONE's request, have been noted. The following paragraphs refer to the several points of content questioned.

2. UK rights in Singapore. We agree that the GM 62-2 statement, "...the United Kingdom... will retain the right to use the Singapore military base." should be regarded as subject to Federation leaders' permissiveness and local popular attitudes. These limitations, however, apply to the British situation presently -- the British could not, for instance, use Singapore against the Indonesians in New Guinea. Similarly, we felt that the residual sovereignty possessed by the host country is a limitation on freedom of action that is generally appreciated. The report here only intended to record the fact of agreement on UK rights, as announced by Prime Minister Rahman [REDACTED]

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3. Malaysia Solidarity Consultative Committee. We agree that this committee does not represent all popular opinion. The term, "representative" was used in the sense that the committee is constituted of representatives from all of the political components interested in Malaysia [REDACTED]

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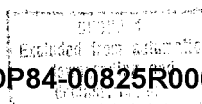
The fact of its "stacked" possibilities might have been made more explicit, although you will note that the preceding sentence intentionally refers to formation of the Cobbold Commission as a probable pro forma act on the part of the British Government.

4. The economy. It is certainly true that in an auto drive through Malaya one is impressed with the "hustle and bustle"; the economy has markedly improved since the period of the Emergency. On the other hand, based on the present knowledge of Malaya's natural resources, we believe it is unwarranted to claim, as you suggest "many expert observers" do, that the Federation has "very considerable economic potentials for the future." Our detailed conclusions on the Federation's resource base are available on request.

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STATE, NAVY review(s) completed.

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5. Map A. This map shows great-circle distances, not those of scheduled air carrier routes. "Airline" distances in the legend thus should have been "air" distances. With regard to the questioned citation of direct flights from Singapore to Manila, the Official Airline Guide for April 1962 lists four direct flights weekly by BOAC between Singapore and Manila. In addition, there were three flights weekly by Cathay Pacific Airways from Singapore to Manila via Hong Kong. We were wrong in showing direct flights to Sydney.

6. Map B. The omission from this map of the main north-south road in Malaya has its roots in an old cartographic problem -- how to show background detail without obscuring the main subject of the map. In this case, there were a number of design complications which counseled omission of this road, as indeed many others. Concerning the main East-West route you are right -- portrayal of a major section of the road was based on an obsolete source. Concerning the road shown as entering Thailand, our information has it trafficable, constructed of crushed stone or blacktop as of 1959; we would certainly accept a more recent report. In the case of the motorable route on the east coast, we may both be in error -- a recheck here shows good evidence for the trafficability of all sections except that between Portian and Rompin; this possible gap is to be closed by a new road to be completed in 1963.

7. Place names. Names on Map D were holdovers from a conveniently available base map which carried names only for rough orientation, and, in the process, gave preference to those of towns on railroads. The name selection is admittedly arbitrary and improvable. In view of short deadlines and the presence of Map B as the primary map of Malaya, no recompilation of this aspect of Map D was deemed necessary.

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Enclosure:

SM (2-2 (Cy. No. 77)

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